

Using ArcGIS Explorer to View and Query Parcel Data

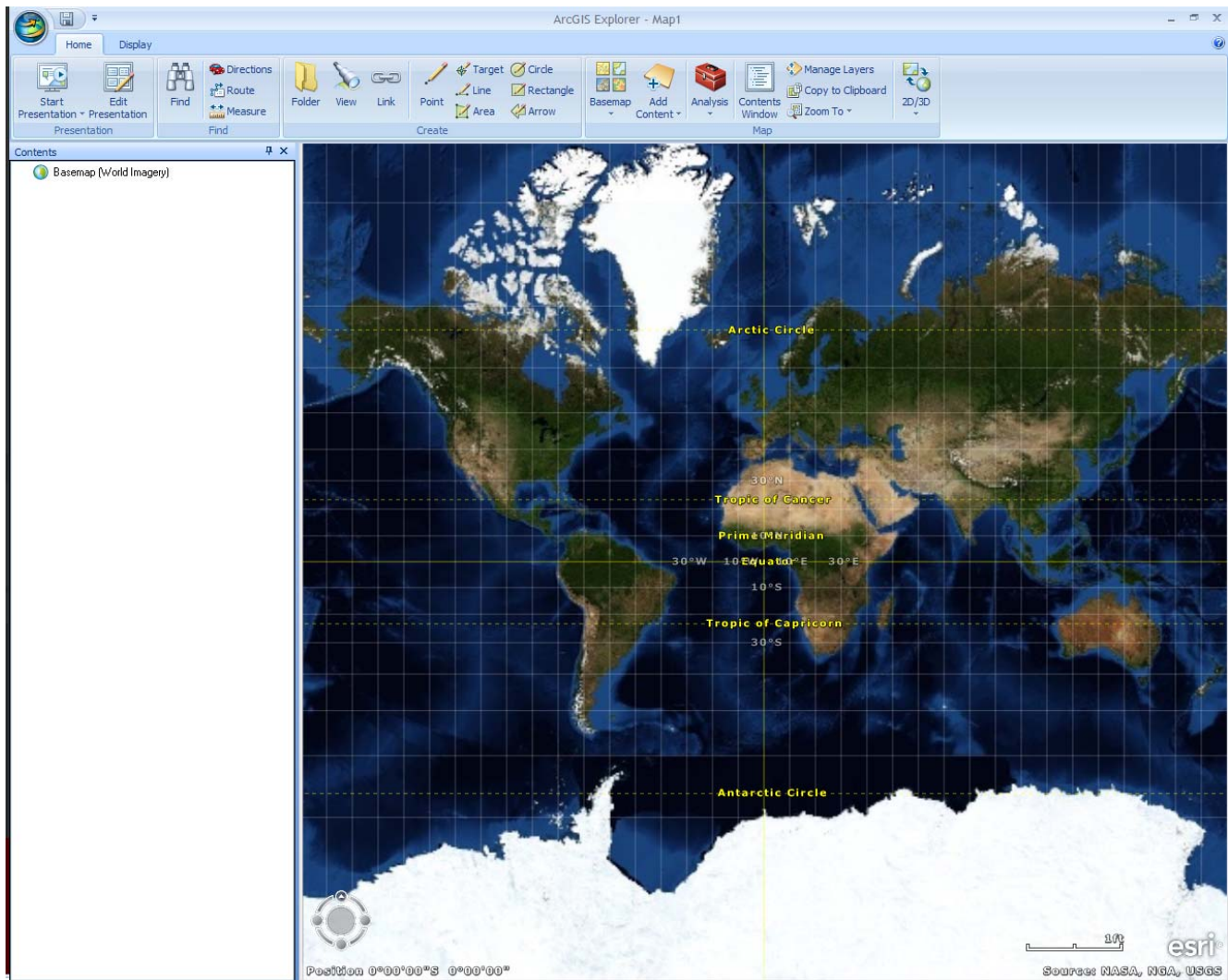
Download and install ArcGIS Explorer following the directions that are available at the following link:

<http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/explorer/>

Download San Bernardino County parcel data in shapefile format by following the directions that are available at the following link (click on FTP GIS downloads):

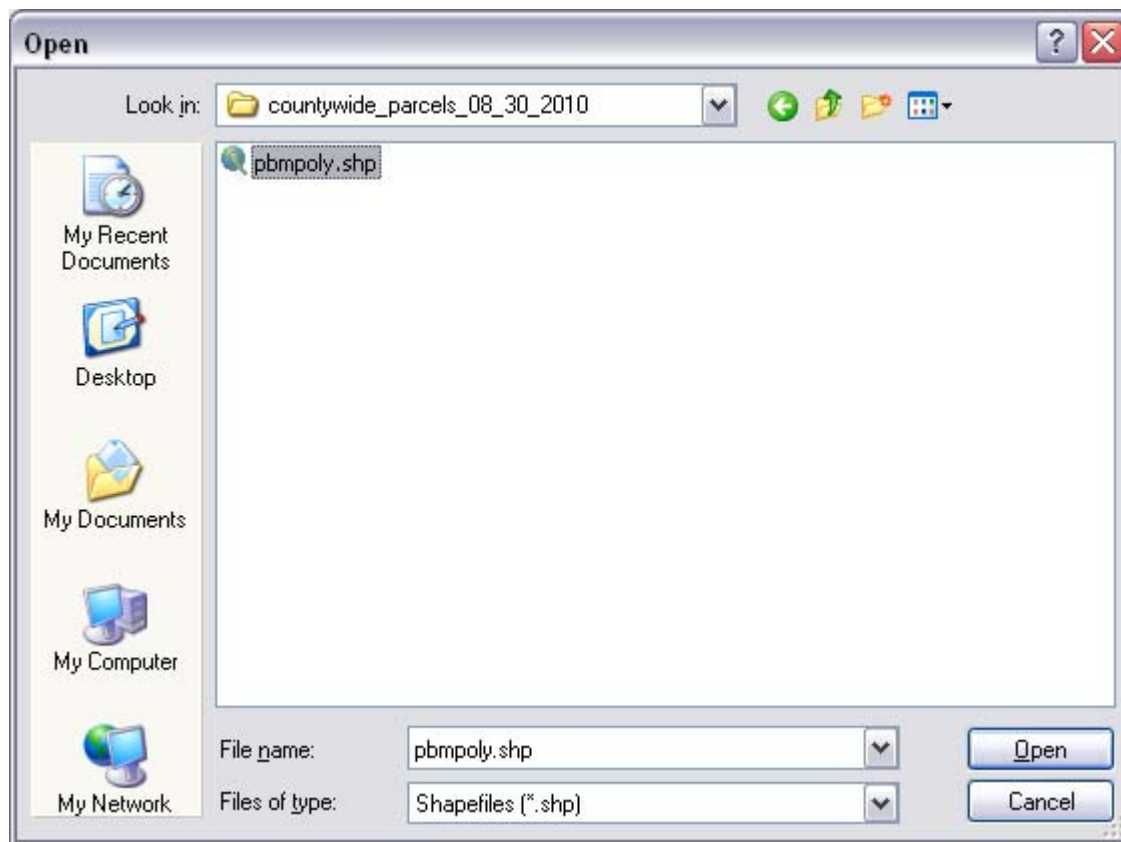
<http://gis.sbcounty.gov/>

Once ArcGIS Explorer is installed, open the application and this is what you will see (ArcGIS Explorer build 1500 is pictured):



ArcGIS Explorer defaults to a 2D view. You can switch to a 3D view but performance suffers when large datasets such as the parcel data shapefile are loaded. It is therefore recommended to keep ArcGIS Explorer in 2D mode when using the parcel data.

Click the “Add Content” button on the menu bar and select “Shapefiles.” Navigate to where you saved and unzipped the parcel data on your PC, select the file, and then click on “Open.”

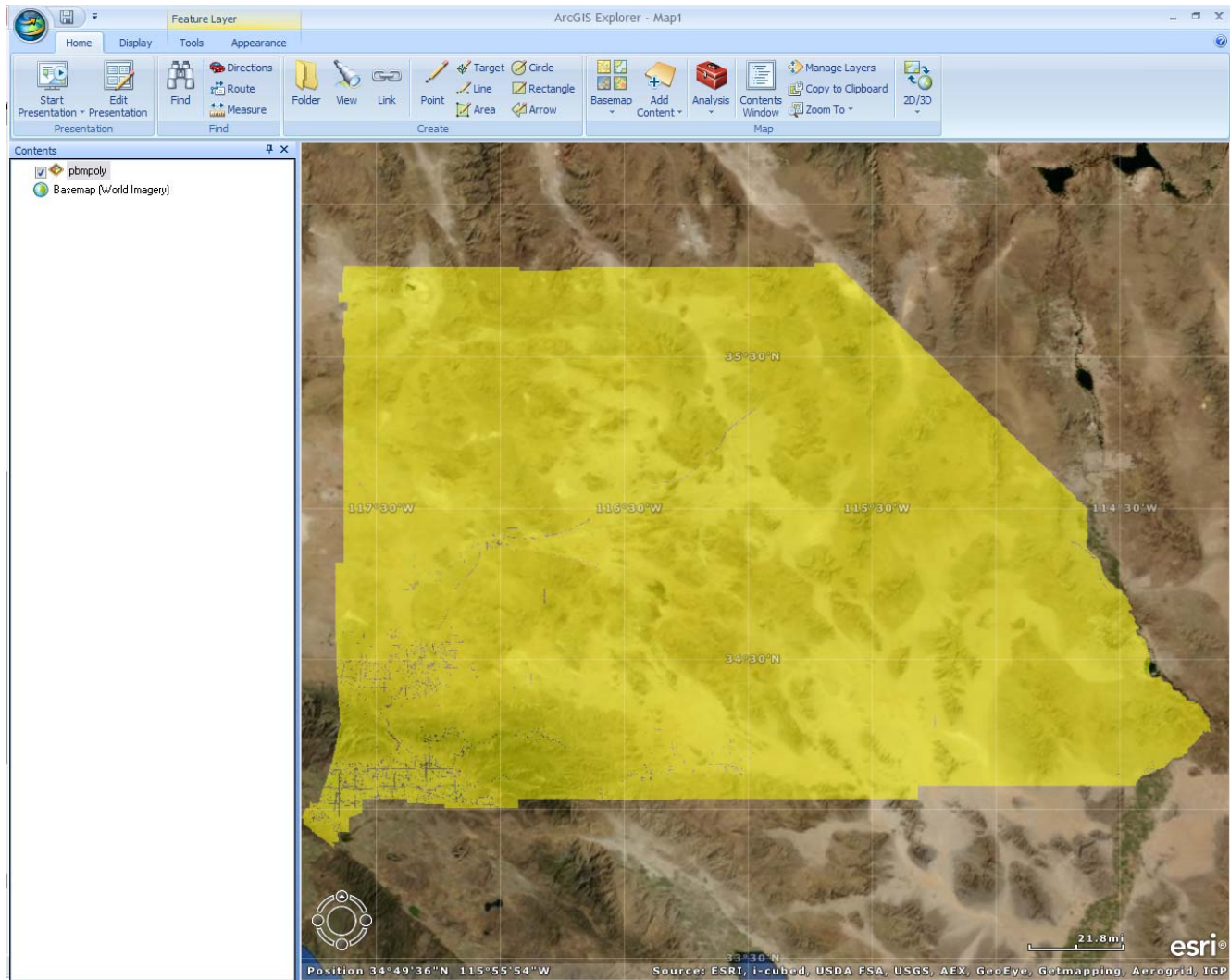


You will then see this:



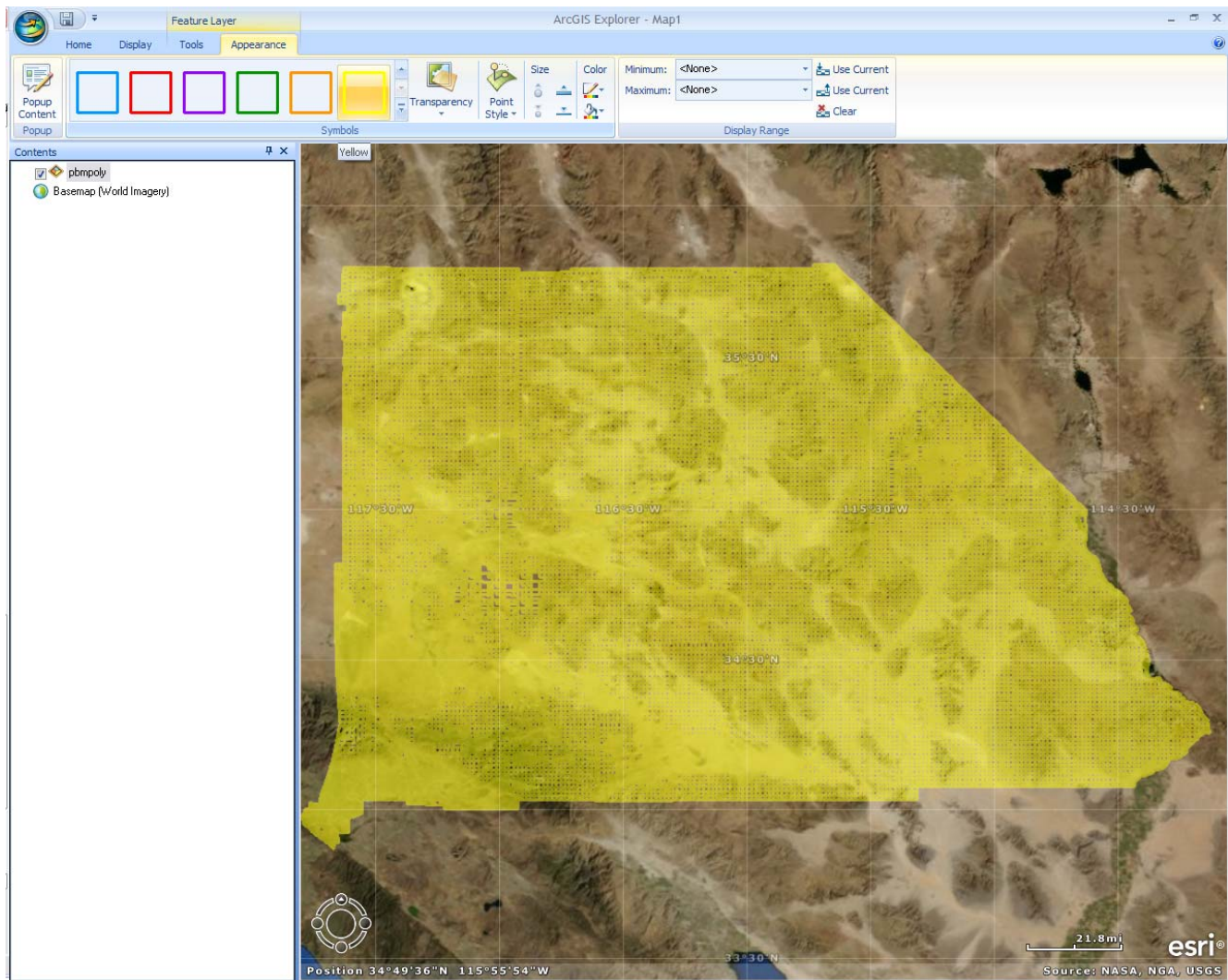
After several seconds ArcGIS Explorer will zoom to the map extent of the parcel data and continue loading it. This process may take a few minutes so be patient (data is still loading as long as you see “Streaming” near the bottom of the display window). If this process hangs or is taking longer than you feel that it should, hit the “Esc” key and the loading process will stop. You can then zoom to the area of interest and allow the loading process to continue.

Once the parcel data shapefile is finished loading, you will see the following:



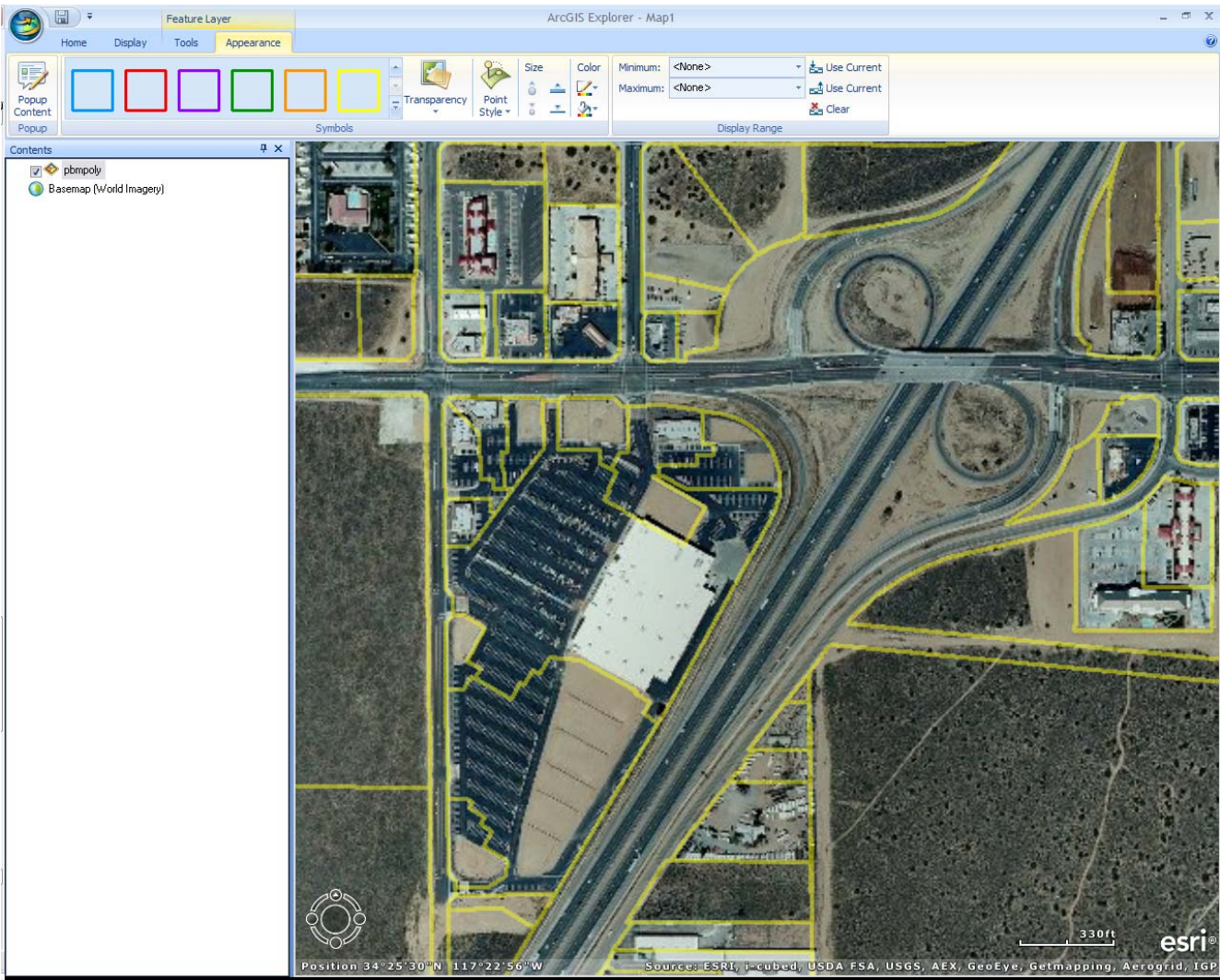
The parcel data loads with solid fill symbology so we will need to change it in order to see the parcel boundaries.

Click on the “Appearance” tab near the top of ArcGIS Explorer and you will see colored boxes appear near the top left. Click on the down arrow to scroll through the various symbols that are available. Select one of the hollow symbols. In this case I selected a hollow yellow symbol but you can select whichever color that you prefer. You can set the transparency of the data by clicking on the “Transparency” button next to the color symbols. You can also select custom line widths and colors by clicking on the “Size” and “Color” buttons elsewhere on the Appearance toolbar.



If you have multiple layers loaded, make sure that the data layer that you wish to change the symbology for is active (highlighted), This is also true for any selections or queries that you may wish to perform.

You may now pan around the map using the cursor and zoom using the scroll wheel on the mouse. If you would like to identify a parcel, take the cursor and single click within that parcel and a window will pop up with information about that parcel.



MAIN	
APN	306461124
NUMBER	12745
PREDIR	
STREETNAME	MAIN
STREETTYPE	ST
CITY	HESPERIA
STATE	CA
COMMAREA	HES
ZIP	92345
TAX_STATUS	1
TRA	0020097
SHAPE_AREA	622242.601939
SHAPE_LEN	4825.04000263

To select a parcel of interest, you can use ArcGIS Explorer to perform a query. To do this, select the “Tools” tab and click on the “Query” button and the Query Builder will open.

Query Builder

Fields

- APN - String
- NUMBER - Double
- PREDIR - String
- STREETNAME - String
- STREETTYPE - String
- CITY - String
- STATE - String
- COMMAREA - String
- ZIP - String
- TAX_STATUS - String
- TRA - String
- SHAPE_AREA - Double
- SHAPE_LEN - Double

Operators

= <> LIKE

> >= AND

< <= OR

NOT

Value

Use

Get unique values

Select features where...

Test Clear

[Help about Query Editor](#) OK Cancel

To perform a query for APN number, under Fields, double click on “APN – String” and the APN field will be added to the preview box. Select “=” from the list of Operators and then type in the 9 digit parcel number (do not include the last four zeros) within single quotation marks. You may create and edit expressions from within the preview box.

For example, if you are looking for parcel number 3064611240000 you should see something like this in the preview box: "APN" = '306461124'

Click on the “Test” button to verify your query. If the expression is valid, the Query Builder will tell you how many records match your query (in this case one record). If your query does not work, verify the syntax of your expression and test it again. For more information about the query builder and composing expressions, please refer to ArcGIS Explorer Help.

Query Builder

Fields	Operators	Value
APN - String NUMBER - Double PREDIR - String STREETNAME - String STREETTYPE - String CITY - String STATE - String COMMAREA - String ZIP - String TAX_STATUS - String TRA - String SHAPE_AREA - Double SHAPE_LEN - Double	= <> LIKE > >= AND < <= OR NOT	<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Use"/> <input type="button" value="Get unique values"/>

Select features where...

"APN" = '306461124'

1 feature matches the query.

[Help about Query Editor](#)

You can click on the “Get unique values” button to return a list of all parcel APN numbers but that could take quite some time since there are over 140,000 records. This function is useful when creating expressions with data that contains fewer records however.

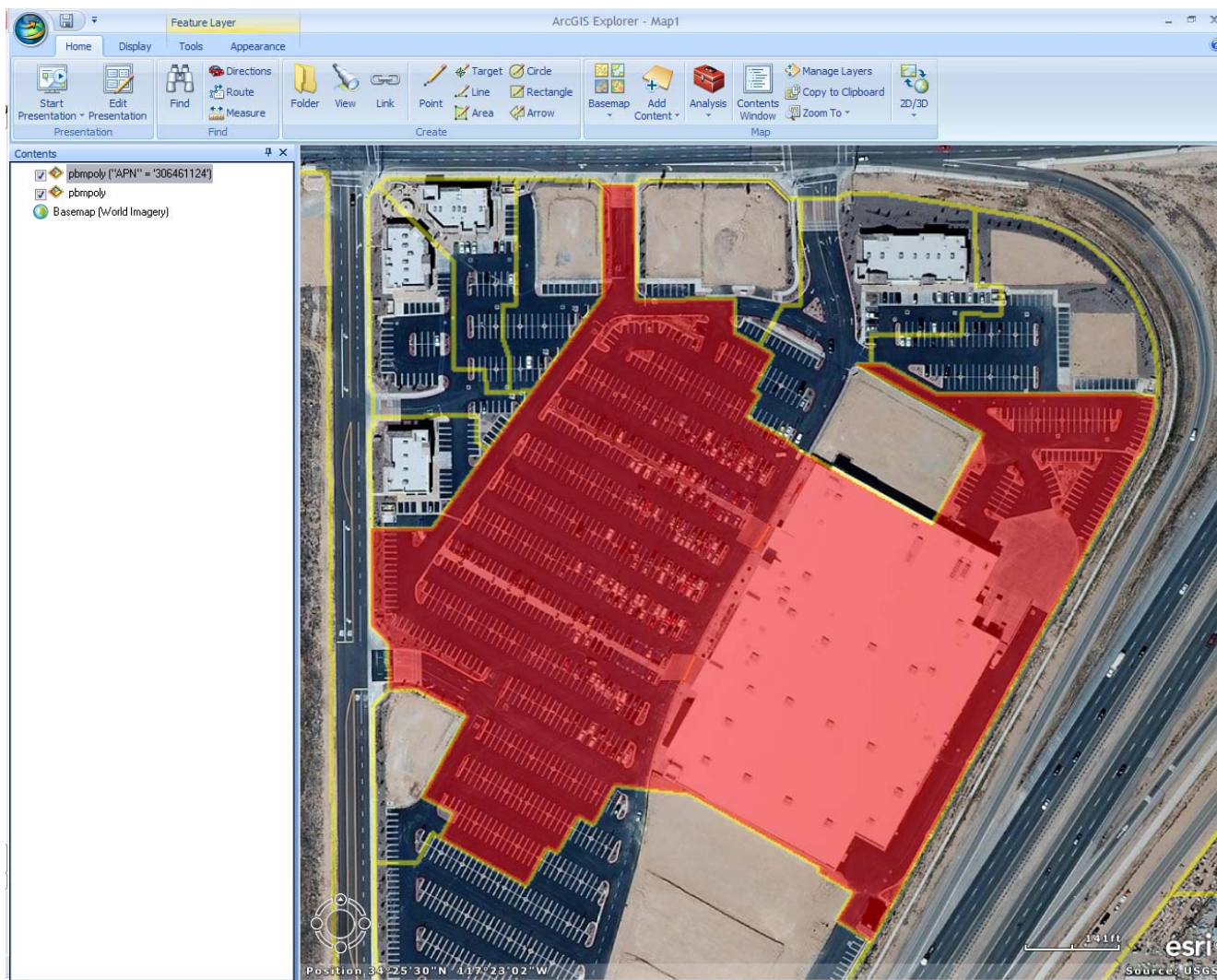
Click the “OK” button and you will see:

ArcGIS Explorer

Querying feature layer

"APN" = '306461124'

A new layer is created for the selection, shaded in red, and added to the Contents area. ArcGIS Explorer will then fly to where the selected parcel is located.



You can create similar queries using other fields within the data or even using other data sources. For more information on using ArcGIS Explorer, please refer to the included Help files and the ESRI ArcGIS web site.

<http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/explorer/>

For questions about San Bernardino County GIS data, please feel free to contact us.

<http://gis.sbcounty.gov/>

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